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HOLIDAY DISCLOSURE

Foss doesn't have a
telephone
never had a doorbell
hooked up
and his front door
won't open these days
which doesn't appear
to bother him
although he complains
a lot about
being a lonely soul
with no visitors
or close relatives.

Kyle and I walked
in on him
through the back door
two weeks
before Christmas
he was sitting at
his kitchen table
writing a letter
in a card of
the brightest red
with silver bells and
glitter.

We kidded him
about a girl friend
finally smoked out
he was writing to his
parents
back in Bowie, Texas
both of them in good
shape
for being eighty-five.

Kyle was a little miffed
as we drove home
said that phony Foss
led everyone
to believe he was an
orphan
without a living relative
in the world
why does he tell that
stuff?

FAMILY TRADITIONS

I didn't believe it when
they said Olivia Way
kept a table set
with her mother's china
white
with a plain gold band
a wedding present from
June 1901
but I had to eat my
own doubts
when Mamie took
me there last year
no one told me
there would be fresh flowers
in a white pitcher
and silver napkin rings

DOUBTING JOHN MAYFIS

He wanted homemade
bread the worst way
and bought flour
and quick-rising yeast
for Nancy
who barely could
make toast